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US patent 6,097,374 (“Howard, et. Al.) titled “Wrist Pendent Wireless Optical Keyboard” describes a system for sensing the presence or absence of human digit or a prosthetic appendage of a wrist. This system is complex not convenient as an input device.

US patent 5,615,132 (“Horton, et. Al.”) describes a “Method and Apparatus for Determining Position and Orientation of a Moveable Object using Accelerometers”. This patent describes the application of accelerometers to simulation and games but does not describe its applicability to hand writing recognition.

US patent 5,851,193 (“Arikka, et. Al.”) describes a “Method and Device for the Simultaneous Analysis of Ambulatorily Recorded Movements of an Individual’s Different Body Parts”. This patent does not cover the application of accelerometers to hand writing recognition.

The previous systems present a number of disadvantages:

- Bulky systems: all previous systems consist of 2 or more sub-systems
- Not easy to integrate: none of the previous devices can be easily integrated with a cellular phone or a personal digital assistant
- Reliability: most of the previous systems are not reliable in deciphering handwriting
- Cost: most of the previous systems are complex, thus costly.

Thus there is a need for a more convenient and reliable method and apparatus for inputting handwriting into any device cheaply and reliably. The device consists of:

- One electronic stylus entity that contains one or more accelerometers,
- The electronic stylus is used to perform gestures in the air that correspond to graffiti,
- The electronic stylus correlates output from accelerometers to graffiti symbol, this task can also be performed at the receiving terminal,
- The electronic stylus correlates each graffiti symbol to a letter, number or other symbol,
- The electronic stylus uses BlueTooth to send information to any BlueTooth compatible device.



## SUMMARY OF INVENTION

A method for input of handwriting, comprising:

- holding a wireless electronic stylus;
- pushing a button;
- performing movements in the air that correspond to graffiti symbols.

Apparatus for input of handwriting, comprising:

- a wireless stylus fitted with accelerometers and a transmitter.

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- Fig 1 is a schematic of an electronic stylus;
- Fig 2 is a block diagram of an electronic stylus;
- Fig 3 is a flowchart illustrating the steps involved in capturing handwriting using an electronic stylus;
- Fig 4 is a flowchart illustrating an alternative set of steps involved in capturing handwriting using an electronic stylus;

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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Fig 1 is schematic of an electronic stylus 10 comprising an activation button 12 and an antenna 14. To start writing, the user pushes button 12 and draws graffiti in the air. (Graffiti is a symbol set that is similar to the alphabet, but that is easier for machines to interpret. An example of graffiti is the one used by PalmPilot personal digital assistants). The graffiti are automatically analyzed, and symbols are displayed on the receiving device.

Referring now to fig 2, in one embodiment, electronic stylus 10 comprises a processor 20 interconnected with an activation button 12, an accelerometer 22, transmitter 26 and a battery 24.

Processor 20 awaits activation indication from activation button 12, collects data from accelerometer 22, performs correlation, triggers transmitter 26...

Accelerometer 22 can be composed of one or many orthogonally disposed accelerometers.

It will be understood that transmitter 26 may be any type of transmitter capable of transmitting the signals generated by processor 20. Transmitter 26 may be a BlueTooth chip in the preferred embodiment, or a radio frequency (RF), ultrasound, or any other type of transmitter.

When electronic stylus 10 is not in operation it remains in dormant state ("sleep-mode") to conserve the energy of battery 24.

Battery 24 provides power to some of the components of electronic stylus 10. It will be understood that battery 24 may be nickel-cadmium,

lithium, alkaline or nickel-hydride battery or any other portable source of electric power. Battery 24 can also be replaced with photovoltaic cells.

Turning now to fig 3, the flowchart illustrates the steps involved in identifying handwriting symbols using an electronic stylus. Upon receipt of a user indication through activation button 12 in step 32, some components of the wireless stylus wake up in step 34 and processor 20 tries to establish a wireless connection with a receiving device in step 36. If a connection cannot be established, the wireless stylus goes to sleep, otherwise, processor 20 reads output from accelerometer 22 in step 40. In step 42, processor 20 compares acceleration parameters from accelerometer 22 with a stored acceleration sequence characterizing each of a plurality of symbols in graffiti. Graffiti is a set of simplified symbols that is similar to the alphabet but that is easier for machines to interpret. In the preferred embodiment, Palm graffiti is used. Next, processor 20 correlates graffiti symbols to letters, number and symbols and identifies written symbols in step 44. Finally, processor 2 sends the symbols to the receiving device using transmitter 26 and antenna 14 in step 46.

Turning now to fig 4, the flowchart illustrates an alternative set of steps involved in identifying handwriting symbols using an electronic stylus. Upon receipt of a user indication through activation button 12 in step 32, some components of the wireless stylus wake up in step 34 and processor 20 tries to establish a wireless connection with a receiving device in step 36. If a connection cannot be established, the wireless stylus goes to sleep, otherwise, processor 20 reads output from accelerometer 22 in step 40. In step 50, processor 20 wirelessly sends data from accelerometer 22 to receiving



device. In step 52, the receiving device compares acceleration to a stored acceleration sequence characterizing each of a plurality of graffiti symbols. Processor 20 correlates graffiti symbols to letters, numbers and symbols. Finally, in step 54, the receiving device identifies the written symbols.

Numerous other modifications, variations, and adaptations may be made to the particular embodiment of the invention described above without departing from the scope of the invention, which is defined in the claims.